

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated October 19, 2007. In response to the issues raised, the Applicant offers the following submissions and amendments.

Amendments

Independent claims 1, 18 and 35 have been amended to incorporate the features previously defined in claims 10, 27 and 43 respectively. In view of this, claims 10, 27 and 43 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, the amendments do not add new matter.

35 U.S.C. §103 - Claims

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 12, 18, 19, 20, 22-23, 29, 35-39 and 45 stand rejected as obvious in light of US 6,003,977 to Weber et al. in view of US 6,491,377 to Cleland et al.

As discussed above, independent claims 1, 18 and 35 have been amended to include the elements of claims 10, 27 and 43 respectively. The Examiner's Report notes that claims 10, 27 and 43 define allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form together with any intervening claims. We submit that the amendments to claims 1, 18 and 35 provide this.

As claims 1, 18 and 35 are the independent claims of the claim set, it follows that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 18, 19, 20, 22-23, 29, 35-39 and 45 are likewise novel and inventive.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been successfully traversed and the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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